

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2004, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire June 25, 2004. Fifty-six (56) claims, including sixteen (16) independent claims, were paid for in the application. In a previous Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment, claims 50-56 were cancelled and claims 38-40 were removed from consideration. In the present amendment, claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-16, 18-19, 23-24, 27, 29-32, 35-37, 41, and 43-45 have been amended. Claim 57 has been added. No new matter has been added to the application. The present claim set, as amended herein, stands at forty-six (46) total claims, including thirteen (13) independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter Relative to the Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner notes that claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and, in addition, if rewritten to overcome the claim and Section 112 objections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's suggestion and has redrafted claim 27 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicants submit that claim 27, as amended, is now allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-26, 28-37, and 41-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamle (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,710). Claim 27 has been addressed above.

Each of the independent claims recites the limitation of "generating a pseudo-random playing card sequence" or some close variant thereof. Applicants submit that this limitation, among others, distinguishes the respective claims over Lamle.

Lamle specifically teaches and pointedly suggests that the object of the invention is to "*avoid* the requirement of keeping stocks of unused playing cards," thus the playing cards are printed successively, "*only at the time of delivery* of the card to the table" (column 1, lines 47-48, and lines 57-59; emphasis added). In addition, Lamle teaches that "*after* all bets have

been placed," *the dealer* must activate "*a suitable switch* to initiate the random number generation and to actuate the ... printer" (column 3, lines 32-35; emphasis added). In the Abstract, Lamle clearly directs that the disclosure applies "while the game is in progress," such that signals are fed to a card stock printer at the playing area and single, printed playing cards are delivered immediately, successively, and "one-by-one into play." Moreover, Lamle teaches toward "*successively generating signals* representing indicia designating respective card values randomly drawn from the series of stored card values and feeding the signals successively to the printing means" (column 4, claim 5). In short, Lamle specifically teaches away from printing cards based on any type of a "sequence." The definition of a sequence, as shown in the attachment hereto, is "three or more playing cards in a consecutive order." Webster's II New College Dictionary (1995).

In contrast to generating a pseudo-random sequence, Lamle specifically teaches that a random number generator is generated, a card is printed, and then the entire process is repeated. Accordingly, Lamle teaches solely toward generating individual, random numbers. Therefore, Lamle teaches away from the claims of Applicants' invention and should not be relied on to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicants submit that all the pending claims are patentable over Lamle.

#### Claim Objections and Section 112 Objections

The cited claim objections and Section 112 objections identified by the Examiner have been addressed with the amendments to the claims. If the Examiner notes any informality or discrepancy with regard to any of the cited objections, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

#### Conclusion

Overall, the cited reference either teaches away from Applicants' invention or does not teach or suggest the claimed features in Applicants' invention, thus each of the pending independent claims is allowable. Newly added claim 57, which depends on dependent claim 11

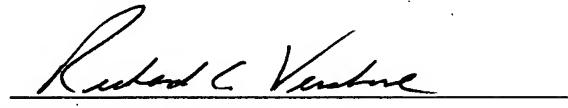
Application No. 10/017,276  
Reply to Office Action dated March 25, 2004

is also allowable. The remaining claims, which depend from allowable independent claims and contain additional features, are also allowable.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

  
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Enclosure:

Dictionary definition of "sequence"  
Postcard

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## septum pellucidum • seriema

**saepire**, to enclose < *saepe*, fence.] A thin partition or membrane between two cavities or soft masses of tissue.

**septum pel·lu·ci·dum** (pə-lōō' sil-dəm) *n.* [NLat., transparent partition.] *Anat.* A thin membrane of nervous tissue forming the medial wall of the lateral ventricles in the brain.

**sep·tu·ple** (sep-tōō' pəl', -tyōō'-) *adj.* [LLat. *septuplus*, sevenfold < Lat. *septem*, seven.] 1. Made up of or containing seven. 2. Multiplied by seven. — *vt.* **-pled**, **-pling**, **-plies**. To multiply by seven.

**sep·ul·cher** (sep'əl-kər) *n.* [ME *sepulcre* < OFr. < Lat. *sepulcrum* < *sepultus*, p.part. of *sepelire*, to bury.] 1. A burial vault. 2. A container for sacred relics, esp. in an altar. — *vt.* **-chered**, **-cher·ing**, **-chers**. To put in a sepulcher : *INTER*.

**se·pul·chral** (sə-pūl' krl', pōōl'-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a sepulcher. 2. Suggestive of the grave : *FUNERAL*. — **se·pul·chral·ly** *adv.*

**sep·ul·chre** (sep'əl-kər) *n.* *&v.* *Chiefly Brit. var. of SEPULCHER.*

**sep·ul·ture** (sep'əl-chōōr', -char) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *sepulitura* < *sepultus*, p.part. of *sepelire*, to bury.] *Archaic.* 1. Interment; burial. 2. A sepulcher.

**se·qua·cious** (sē-kwā' shəs) *adj.* [< Lat. *sequax*, *sequac-*, pursuing < *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Following logically and sequentially. 2. *Archaic*. Apt to follow another : *DEPENDENT*. — **se·qua·cious·ly** *adv.* — **se·qua·cious·i·ty** (-kwā' sī-tē) *n.*

**se·quel** (sē'kwäl', -kwäl') *n.* [ME *sequelle* < OFr. *sequelle* < Lat. *sequela* < *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Something that follows or comes after. 2. A book, motion picture, or dramatic presentation that continues the narrative of an earlier work. 3. A consequence or result.

**se·quel·a** (sē'kwäl'ə) *n.*, *pl.* **-quel·ae** (-kwäl'ē) [Lat., sequel.] Something that follows, esp. a condition arising from a disease.

**se·quence** (sē'kwəns, -kwēns) *n.* [NLat. *sequentia* < Lat. *sequens*, p.part. of *sequi*, to follow.] 1. A following of one thing after another : *SUCCESSION*. 2. An order of succession : *ARRANGEMENT*. 3. A related or continuous series. 4. Three or more playing cards in consecutive order. 5. A series of single film shots edited so as to constitute a unit : *EPISODE*. 6. *Mus.* A melodic or harmonic pattern successively repeated at different pitches with or without a key change. 7. *Rom. Cath. Ch.* A hymn read between the gradual and the gospel. 8. *Math.* An ordered set of quantities, as  $x, 2x^2, 3x^3, 4x^4$ . — *vt.* **-quenced**, **-quenc·ing**, **-quenc·es**. To arrange in a sequence.

**se·quen·ceur** (sē'kwəns-ər, -kwēns-) *n.* *Computer Sci.* A device that sorts cards, data, or programs in a prearranged sequence.

**se·quent** (sē'kwənt) *adj.* [Lat. *sequens*; *sequent*; p.part. of *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Coming after in order or time : *SUBSEQUENT*. 2. Resulting from : *CONSEQUENT*. — *n.* A result : *consequence*.

**se·quen·tial** (sē'kwēn'shəl) *adj.* 1. Forming or marked by a sequence, as of notes or units. 2. Sequent. — **se·quen·ti·al·i·ty** (-shē'äl-i-tē) *n.* — **se·quen·ti·al·ly** *adv.*

**se·ques·ter** (sē'kwēs'tər) *v.* **-tered**, **-ter·ing**, **-ters**. [ME *sequesterien* < LLat. *sequestrare*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, *repository*.] — *vt.* 1. To set apart or remove : *SEGREGATE*. 2. *Law.* To take temporary possession of (property) as security against legal claims. 3. *Law.* To requisition and confiscate (enemy property). 4. To cause to seclude oneself. — *vi.* *Chem.* To undergo sequestration.

**se·ques·tra·ta** (sē'kwēs'tra) *n.* *pl.* of *SEQUESTRUM*.

**se·ques·trant** (sē'kwēs'trənt) *n.* A chemical agent that promotes sequestration.

**se·ques·trate** (sē'kwēs'trāt', sēk'wēt', sē'kwēs'trāt') *vt.* **-trat·ed**, **-trat·ing**, **-trs.** [LLat. *sequestrare*, *sequestrat*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, *repository*.] 1. *Law.* To take possession of : *CONFISCATE*. 2. *Archaic.* To sequester.

**se·ques·tra·tion** (sē'kwēs'trā'shən, sēk'wēt'ēn) *n.* [ME *sequestracio[n]*, excommunication < LLat. *sequestratio[n]*, separation < *sequestrare*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, *repository*.] 1. The act of sequestering or the state of being sequestered. 2. *Law.* a. Seizure of property. b. A writ authorizing seizure of property. 3. *Chem.* The inhibition or stoppage of normal ion behavior by combination with added materials, esp. the prevention of metallic ion precipitation from solution by formation of a coordination complex with a phosphate.

**se·ques·trum** (sē'kwēs'trəm) *n.* *pl.* **-tra** (-trō) [NLat. < Lat.; *deposit* < *sequester*, *repository*.] A dead bone fragment that is separated from healthy bone.

**se·quin** (sē'kwīn) *n.* [Fr. < Ital. *zecchino*, a coin < *zecca*, the mint < Ar. *sikkah*, coin die.] 1. A small shiny ornamental disk sewn on fabric : *SPANGLE*. 2. A gold coin of the Venetian Republic.

**se·quoia** (sē'kwōē'ə) *n.* [NLat. *Sequoia*, genus name, after Sequoia (George Guess), d.1843.] An extremely large evergreen tree of the genus *Sequoia*, which includes the redwood and the giant sequoia.

**se·rac** (sē'rāk', sā') *n.* [Fr. < Med. Lat. *seracum*, whey < Lat. *serum*.] A large mass of glacier ice remaining behind in a crevasse after glacial movement or melting.

**se·ra·glio** (sē'rāl'yoō', -rāl') *n.* *pl.* **-glios**. [Ital. *serraglio*, prob. partly < VLAT. \**serraculum*, enclosure (< Lat. *serare*, to lock up < *sera*, lock), and partly < Turk. *serai*, palace.] 1. A harem. 2. A sultan's palace.

**se·ra·pe also sa·ra·pe** (sō-rā'pē, -rāp'ē) *n.* [Mex. Sp. *sarape*.] A Latin-American cloak or poncho made of wool.

**ser·aph** (sēr'əf) *n.* *pl.* **-aphim** (-əfim) or **-aphs**. [Back-formation < *seraphim* (pl.) < ME *seraphin* < OE < LLat. < Heb. *səraphîm*, pl. of

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**raph**] 1. An angel with three pairs of fiery wings and a golden throne of God. 2. An angel of the highest rank in the mind of angels. — **se·raph'ic** (sō-rāf'ik), **se·raph'i·cal** *adj.* — **se·raph'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

**Se·ra·pis** (sō-rā'pēs) *n.* Myth. An Egyptian god of the netherworld.

**Serb** (sērb) *n.* [Serbian *Srb*.] A member of a southern Slavic people that is the principal ethnic group of Serbia.

**Ser·bi·an** (sēr'bē-ən) *n.* 1. A Serb. 2. A Serbo-Croatian. 3. Serbo-Croatian as spoken in Serbia. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Serbia or the Serbs.

**Ser·bo·Cro·a·tian** (sēr'bō-kro-ātēən) *n.* 1. The Slavic language of the Serbs and the Croats. 2. A native speaker of Serbo-Croatian. — *adj.* Of or relating to Serbo-Croatian or those who speak it.

**ser·e·also** *sear* (sēr) *adj.* [ME < OE *sear*.] Withered; dry.

**ser·e·s** (sēr) *n.* [*series*.] A sequence of ecological communities successively occupying an area.

**ser·e·nade** (sēr'ē-nād', sēr'ē-nād') *n.* [Fr. *serenade* < Ital. *serenata* < *sereno*, serene, < Lat. *serenus*.] 1. A musical performance that honors or expresses love for someone. 2. An instrumental composition for a small ensemble, having characteristics of the suite and the sonata. — **vi.** **-nad·ed**, **-nad·ing**, **-nades**. — *vt.* To perform a serenade for.

**ser·en·dip·i·ty** (sēr'ēn-dip'ē-tē) *n.* [From its possession by the characters in the Persian fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*.] The faculty of making providential discoveries by accident. — **ser·en·dip'i·tous** *adj.*

**se·rene** (sērēn') *adj.* [Lat. *serenus*, serene, clear.] 1. Peaceful; tranquil. 2. Unclouded; clear. 3. *often* **Serene**. August; exalted. Used as part of a title for certain royal personages. — **se·rene·ly** *adv.*

**serf** (sērf) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *servius*, slave.] 1. A slave, esp. a member of the lowest feudal class in medieval Europe, owned by a lord and bound to the land. 2. One in servitude. — **serf' dom**.

**serge** (sērj) *n.* [ME *serge* < OFr. < VLat. *serica* < Lat. *serica*, silk < *sericus*, silken < *Seres*, a people of Eastern Asia.] A twilled cloth of worsted or a cloth of worsted and wool.

**ser·ge·ant** (sār'jānt) *n.* [ME *sergeante*, a common soldier < OFr. *sergent* < Lat. *serviens*, pr.part. of *servire*, to serve < *servus*, slave.] 1. a. Any of several ranks of noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. b. One holding any of these ranks. 2. a. The rank of police officer next below a captain, lieutenant, or inspector. b. A police officer holding this rank. 3. A sergeant at arms. — **ser·gean·cy**, **ser·geant·ship** *n.*

**sergeant at arms** *n.* An officer appointed to keep order at the meetings of a legislative, judicial, or social body.

**sergeant first class** *n.* A noncommissioned officer in the US Army ranking above staff sergeant and below master sergeant and first sergeant.

**sergeant fish** *n.* The cobia.

**sergeant major** *n.* 1. A noncommissioned officer serving as chief administrative assistant of a headquarters unit of the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. 2. *Chiefly Brit. var. of SERGEANT* 2, 3.

**ser·ge·ant** *n.* [Lat. *sergeus*] 1. Grave in quality, character or manner : SOBER. 2. Earnestly; sincerely : SERINCER. 3. Involving important rather than trivial matters : WEIGHTY. 4. Characterized by much effort or devotion : SERVING.

**ser·ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **se·ri·ous·ness** *n.*

**ser·geant** *n.* [Lat. *serjeant* < *serjeant*] 1. *Chiefly Brit. var. of SERGEANT* 2, 3.

**ser·mon** *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *sermo*, discourse.] 1. A speech delivered during a church service. 2. An often long-winded speech of reproach or exhortation. — **ser·mon·ic** (*ser·mon·i·cal*) *adj.*

**ser·mon·ize** (sēr'mō-nīz') *v.* **-ized**, **-iz·ing**, **-iz·es**. — *vt.* To preach to. — *vi.* To speak as if giving a sermon. — **ser·mon·er** *n.*

**sermon on the Mount** *n.* A discourse of Jesus, delivered on the Mount of Olives, in the New Testament.

**ser·um** *n.* [*pref.* < SERUM.] Serum < *serotherapy*.

**ser·di·ag·no·sis** (sēr'dē-äg'nō-sis, sēr'ōō-sis) *n.* Diagnosis of blood serum reactions. — **se·ro·di·ag·nos·tic** (-tētik) *adj.*

**ser·ogy** (sēr'lōō-jē) *n.* The medical science dealing with diseases of the skin.

**ser·ro·log·ic** (sēr'lōō-jik) *adj.* — **se·ro·log·ic** (*ser·ro·log·i·cal*) *adj.*

**ser·pu·ru·lent** (sēr'ō-pyōō'rē-lēnt, -pyōō'rē-yōō, sēr'ē-) *adj.* Of or from serum and pus.

**ser·ra** (sērōō'sa, -zə) *n.* *pl.* **-sas** or **-sae** (-sē') [NLat. *sera*, serum < Lat. *serum*, serum.] A serous membrane. — **ser·ral** *adj.*

**ser·ther·a·py** (sēr'ō-thēr'ē-pē, sēr'ē-) *n.* Treatment of a serum or antitoxin.

**ser·to·nal** (sēr'tōō-nl, sēr'ē-tē-nal) *adj.* Serotonous.

**ser·to·nous** (sēr'ōō-nōōs, sēr'ē-tē-nōōs) *adj.* [Lat. *serotonin*.] *bio* *< sero*, at a late hour < serum, late.] Biol. Late in maturing.

**ser·to·nin** (sēr'ōō-tōō-nēn, sēr'ē-tōō-nēn) *n.* [SERO- + TON(IC) + -IN.] A compound,  $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O$ , found esp. in the brain, blood and gastric mucous membranes and active in vasoconstrictor transmission of nerve impulses.

**ser·to·type** (sēr'ōō-tip', sēr'ē-tip') *n.* A group of related microorganisms distinguished by its composition of antigens.

**ser·ous** (sēr'ōōs) *adj.* Containing, secreting, or like serum.

ā pat ā pay ā care ā father ā pet ā be ā hw which ā  
i tie ī pier ī pot ī toe ī paw, for ī oī noise ī  
ou out ī th thin ī th this ī ū cut ī ū urge ī  
base ī zh vision ī about ī item, ī edible, ī gallop,